



IMPORTANT REMINDER:
ALL VISITORS TO
STILLWATER SCHOOL MUST
SIGN IN AT THE MAIN
OFFICE UPON ARRIVAL AND
SIGN OUT WHEN LEAVING.

Important Dates to Remember:

- ◆ ASLC MEETING DATES: 12/15, 12/17, 1/5, 1/7, 1/12
- ◆ TREP\$ MARKETPLACE: 12/16 – 6:30PM - 8:00PM
- ◆ PTA HOLIDAY SHOP: 12/16 – 12/18
- ◆ PROGRESS REPORTS: 12/16
- ◆ KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: 1/19 – 1/22

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ABSENTEE CALLS: All absences must be reported directly to our dedicated attendance line: 973-383-3227. Kindly keep this number handy. **DO NOT** call the main school phone number or use the personal voice mail of our nurse, Maureen Beckman. The nurse's voice mail should be used for health concerns other than attendance.

SCHOOL HOURS: The school day is 8:25 AM until 3:00 PM for all children. **Whenever possible, ALL children should be strongly encouraged to take the bus in order to ensure that they are on time. WALKERS AND/OR CHILDREN WHO ARE DROPPED OFF BY THEIR PARENTS SHOULD NOT ARRIVE TO SCHOOL PRIOR TO 8:15 AM.**

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE: Students need to be in school every day to stay on track. Teachers' lesson plans are carefully constructed to introduce new concepts, reinforce them with learning activities, and then move on to new skills and ideas. When children aren't in school they can easily fall behind. The more days they miss, the harder it is to catch up. **Families will be contacted via a mailing after a child accumulates four unexcused absences, again when a child accumulates five to nine unexcused absences, and finally when the child has ten or more unexcused absences. Letters are automatically generated by our data system.** After ten unexcused absences, if the district determines that the compulsory attendance law has been violated, a court referral may be made, as required by district policy and New Jersey State Law (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6). Please ensure that if your child is absent that you follow up with written documentation to avoid an unexcused absence. Definitions of excused absences can be found on the district website under the *Parent Resources* tab.

BUS STOP REMINDER: Parents/Guardians – It is important that you are at your child's(ren's) bus stop on time. If you have not signed a waiver stating that your child may be let off without someone present, the bus will return your child to school if a designated person is not there to receive them. **A \$25 charge is incurred by the family if the bus has to return to the school with your child(ren).**

SIGNING STUDENTS OUT: All students who are leaving the school building must be signed out by a parent/guardian or **authorized** person. If your child will not be riding the bus home (ex: staying for an after-school activity, or being picked up), a green bus note **must** be sent in that morning to the homeroom teacher. For students attending KEEP or First Impressions, or being picked up on a **regularly SCHEDULED basis**, please write that in a note (preferably on a green bus note) including the details of child's specific schedule, **bus route number**, and a contact person for our records. **Any phone calls, or email requests regarding your child's end of the day dismissal must be made before 12:00pm unless it is an emergency situation.** For requests made after 12:00pm, a decision will be made by administration as to whether or not we will be able to honor that request. Any questions, please contact Mr. Robinson or Mrs. Sager.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE - OneCall notifications

We will be sending out OneCall notifications throughout the school year, as needed, due to emergency closings, delays, or special announcements. **WE ARE ASKING YOU TO PLEASE CHECK YOUR PHONE FOR MESSAGES RATHER THAN CALLING THE SCHOOL FOLLOWING THE NOTIFICATION.** This will help to eliminate the volume of calls that come in to the school immediately after the message is sent. **Thank you for your cooperation!**

UNIQUE EDUCATION LAWS

- In Arkansas, teachers with a bob in their hair may forfeit pay raises.
- In Fresno, California, elementary schools are forbidden from hosting poker tournaments.
- New York City has banned the words, "dinosaurs", "birthdays", "Halloween", and "dancing" from city-issued standardized tests.


SECOND GRADE NEWS: The second grade has begun an author study of Jan Brett. The classes have read many stories written and illustrated by this author. The students are exploring how to retell, sequence, and predict using details from her books. The children have also used Jan Brett stories to learn about the setting of a story, too. Each student is writing a parody of the gingerbread man story, just like Jan Brett! The second grade will also use the arctic settings from the stories, to research and write facts about real reindeer, or caribou, of the north. During the month of December, the second grade is experiencing how to be an author and illustrator! If you would like to explore the many activities like us, visit janbrett.com and have fun!

TREP\$ MARKETPLACE

This year's Marketplace will be held on **Wednesday, December 16th at the Stillwater School Gym from 6:30 – 8:00**. The event is free and open to the public. The entire community is invited to come and see what happens when you give children the creative outlet and responsibility that comes with starting a business venture. Your presence will make it even more special for these very talented sixth graders.

MUSIC NEWS: Congratulations to everyone who performed in this year's Sounds of the Season Concert and at the Senior Citizen Luncheon. You all did a wonderful job! The performances took place this week with singers and instrumental music. The students who were involved include those in kindergarten and grades 1, 2, 4, and 5 as well as the Handbell and Advanced Band students. Students in the instrumental ensembles began learning their music in October. They work hard for two and a half months in order to perform the pieces as a full group. These dedicated kids learn their instrument, how to play it with good technique, and then are given the opportunity to share their talents with our school and the community. All the students in Stillwater sing in their general music classes. Each grade level performs at either the Winter or Spring Concert or the Senior Citizen Luncheon. It takes a lot of time and focus to learn all the words and to sing as a group on beat and on pitch. Everyone is very proud of all who participated to make this season special. Job well done!

STAFF SWEATER CONTEST - Monday December 7th - December 11th, Stillwater School's staff members had a holiday sweater contest to benefit the Stillwater School holiday tree. This tree is set up to give local families help with purchasing holiday gifts. Participating staff members wore a holiday sweater all week. Staff and students voted for their favorite sweater by making a donation in cans set up in the cafeteria. Families may help by sending in donations with their child. All donations will be used to purchase clothes and toys for the community tree. Thank you for your participation and let the best sweater win! **By Lilly Miller and Aniella Morgan**



SWEET TRIVIA

In what year did Hershey's start wrapping its Kisses in holiday colors?

Hershey's wrapped their Kisses in colored foil (other than silver) for the first time in 1962. Hershey's sold red, green, and silver Kisses during the Christmas season that year in addition to its year-round silver-wrapped ones.

How many Kisses can Hershey's wrap in one minute?

Today's machines can wrap up to 1,300 Hershey's Kisses a minute. Hershey's has the capacity to make approximately 33 million Hershey's Kisses per day, or more than 12 billion a year at their plants in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and Oakdale, California.

B-SOCIAL NEWS: The "Let's B-Social Club" had their last meeting this week. The students enjoyed a special treat and sharing their favorite memories with their new friends!

B-ALIVE NEWS: The B-Alive Program will have their next trip to Centenary College on Thursday, December 17th. The television show *Classroom Close-up* will be filming throughout the day. The B-Alive Program will be featured on an episode of the show which will air in March 2016!

KINDERGARTEN NEWS: December is a time for celebration and the kindergarten hallways look so festive with all of the unique and charming Christmas trees that adorn the walls. In addition to the Christmas holiday, the children have been exposed to some of the traditions and customs of some other December holidays including Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. The kindergarten classes also helped to spread some holiday cheer by singing a few short songs at the Senior Citizen Luncheon. They were adorable of course!

STUDENT SUBMISSION: Coming up in January, the 5th grade will be having a Colonial Fair. At the fair, the 5th graders will dress up, have their own family and have their own trade. We will be working in class to make bonnets, aprons and ties. Each group will have their own colony and will learn about their trade and colony. All of the 5th graders are excited to be involved in ye olde Colonial Fair. **Submitted by Marah Whitby in Mrs. McMahon's class**

STUDENT SUBMISSION: In 4th grade Social Studies, we are learning about timelines and writing our own personal timelines based on things that have happened to us at certain times in our life. Next week in math we are having a test on multiplying 3- and 4- digit by 1- digit numbers, so we have to study. In Language Arts, we are writing a story about what would happen if everything we touched turned red or green. **Submitted by Sofia Raposo**

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS

FUNDRAISERS

SPIN-A-THON: 6th grade recognition party fundraiser on Thursday, December 17th at 6:00pm, at the Fit Experience in Sparta. Reserve your bike for \$10.00! Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced – ALL are welcomed and encouraged! **All proceeds from this event will directly benefit the Class of 2016 6th grade recognition party!** Please contact Heather Throne at hmthrone@gmail.com for further information, or call FitX and speak with Penny Bair.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST: Stillwater Township Recreation Commission is sponsoring a town wide Holiday Decorating Contest! Deadline to enter is 12/16/15, with judging taking place on 12/18/15. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize winners will be announced on the website and on Facebook. Applications and details are available at Stillwater Town Hall or via www.stillwatertownshipnj.com, or www.facebook.com/pages/Stillwater-Township/129868013837714.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING: Come celebrate the holiday season with Fairview Lake YMCA Camp - an opportunity for families to sing, create, and celebrate together for lasting memories! Cookie decorating, wintry games, caroling, Christmas tree lighting **TONIGHT**, December 11 from 6pm – 8pm at Fairview Lake YMCA Camp – 1035 Fairview Lake Road. Questions? Please contact Karen King at 973-383-9282 or kking@metroymcas.org.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

KITTATINNY YOUTH LACROSSE CLUB: 2016 Spring registration is now open. Please register early so that we can schedule games and teams. Please be advised that registration will be **online only** and registration fees will increase as of **December 1, 2015**, so register early to avoid any late fees. Your registration fee includes your 2016 U.S. Lacrosse membership. K.Y.L.C. will register all players once registration is complete. Please go to www.kittatinnylax.com. Contact Hilary Manser at 973-534-1922 for any questions.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: Sunday, Dec. 13th from 8:00am – 11:00am at the Stillwater Firehouse. Breakfast will include pancakes and sausage! The event is FREE, though donations are always appreciated.



STILLWATER PTA

Please check this section of the newsletter weekly for PTA news, updates, and special events.
You can also visit our website at www.stillwatertwppta.my-pta.org. Like us on Facebook- "Stillwater Twp. PTA".*

HOLIDAY SHOP: Mark your calendars! The Holiday Shop is quickly approaching and will be open for business **December 16th-18th** during school hours. Envelopes have been sent home, please return them (if desired) the day your child is scheduled to visit the shop. Checks should be made payable to **Stillwater PTA**. Anyone wishing to donate their time should kindly contact John Miller at johnhenrymilleriii@gmail.com or (973)262-2827.

SPIRIT WEAR SALE: UPDATE- The spirit wear deadline has now been extended until **December 11th**! Online ordering is also available at www.acygear.com. Delivery will be in time for Christmas. For questions, please contact Vicki Yanaga at (973)479-4588. **A special thank you to Vicki Yanaga for chairing this fundraiser and for providing us with awesome spirit wear!**

PTA CHAIRPEOPLE: With the many events the PTA provides, we have several parents helping behind the scenes. Part of the job of running a PTA event is putting out flyers to the school to promote the upcoming event. These flyers must be approved by the PTA and administration. Please send all flyers via email to Kristin Oldenburg- stillwaterptapresident@yahoo.com for PTA approval and questions. Also, if you would like something submitted in the weekly newsletter regarding your event, please email your submission to Jen Kraft at stillwaterptacoresec@yahoo.com no later than Wednesday for it to be published that same Friday.

STILLWATER COOKBOOKS (\$3 each) and Stillwater School Car Magnets (\$2 each) are available for purchase! This sale is ongoing throughout the year. If you are interested in purchasing these items or if you have questions, please contact Amanda Connelly at aeconnelly@outlook.com.

SHOPAROO: Congratulations to all those who participate in the Shoparoo fundraiser! TOGETHER we earned \$610.08 for the 2014-2015 school year!! That was double the amount from the previous year! Let's see if we can double it again for this school year! All of the money raised goes directly to the 6th grade Washington, D.C trip. If you haven't signed up for Shoparoo yet, please see the details below to get started. Thank you to everyone who is currently participating, we appreciate your support! Keep up the good work!

Check out some great ways to raise money for Stillwater School...

1. Have you heard about ShopARoo? It's an easy way to help support Stillwater School. All funds that are raised go directly to the 6th grade trip to Washington, D.C! Download: ShopARoo today and choose Stillwater School, NJ as your fundraising cause today. Just snap a picture of your grocery like receipts and start earning points (which convert to cash) for Stillwater School. **It's that easy! Really!**

2. Keep cutting your Box Tops and Labels for Education! Be sure to include your child's homeroom teacher when submitting.

3. Shop at AmazonSmile! Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to 18906 Stillwater PTA. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7214634> and support us every time you shop.

ShopRite stores are also giving away up to \$1 Million to local schools during the 2015-16 school year! Register your Price Plus Club card at www.ShopRiteForMySchool.com today to start earning cash for your school.

UPCOMING EVENTS: 12/16 – 12/18 – Holiday Shop